

CLAIMS:

1. A garment suitable to be worn on an upper body portion of a person, comprising:
a base fabric having a front portion and a rear portion formed with openings for the person's arms and head and having a breast portion on the front portion; and
a first protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric;
wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface.
2. The garment of claim 1, further comprising a second protective panel attached to the breast portion of the base fabric.
3. The garment of claim 1, further comprising a collar portion.
4. The garment of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve attached to the base fabric for receiving the person's arms therethrough.
5. The garment of claim 4, further comprising a protective panel attached to the sleeve.
6. The garment of claim 1, further comprising pockets on the front portion of the fabric.
7. The garment of claim 1, further comprising loops attached to the front portion of the fabric.

8. The garment of claim 1, further comprising attachable and detachable structural members adapted to secure the bottom of the garment to a safety belt.
9. The garment of claim 8, wherein the attachable and detachable structural members are selected from the group consisting of loops, buttons, snaps hooks, hook and loop fasteners.
10. The garment of claim 1, wherein the base fabric is formed into any one of a coat, jacket, shirt, and vest.
11. The garment of claim 1, wherein the protective panel comprises at least one ply of a fabric formed of aramid fibers.
12. The garment of claim 11, wherein the aramid fibers are selected from the group consisting of Kevlar® fiber, Twaron® fiber, Spectra® fiber, and Zylon® fiber.
13. The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber of 200 denier mesh.
14. The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a weight of 3.9 oz/yd².
15. The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a warp count of 70 yarns/inch.
16. The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a fill count of 70 yarns/inch.

17. The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a thickness from 6 to 8 mils.
18. The garment of claim 11, wherein the protective panel fabric is constructed from aramid fiber having a breaking strength of 385 lbf/inch.
19. A garment suitable to be worn on a lower arm portion of a person, comprising:
a base fabric having an elongated portion with an opening suitable receiving a person's arm; and a
hand portion attached to the elongated portion;
wherein the hand portion comprises a first protective panel attached thereto; and
wherein the first protective panel is adapted to protect the upper body portion of the person during descent from a vertical surface.
20. The garment of claim 19, further comprising a second protective panel attached to the elongated portion of the base fabric.